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March 14, 2024 | Volume 43 | Number 6 | Free every Thursday!

EUGENE weekly

'LOVE LIES BLEEDING'
page 14

KISSED WITHOUT
CONSENT
page 4

IAN AND CHERI HAMMONS
OF HIGH STREET TONICS

Photo by Todd Cooper



On the Rocks

FROM SIPPING ALCOHOL-FREE CONCOCTIONS
TO SLAMMING MOSCOW MULES IN

swizzle

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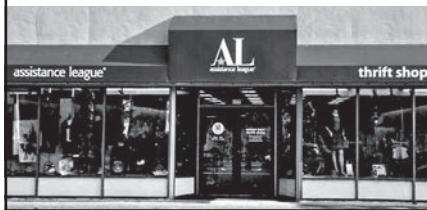
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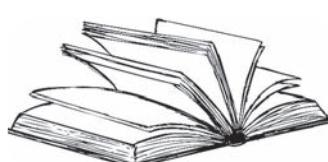
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NEWS AND CULTURE REPORTER Emerson Brady

CALENDAR EDITOR Brianna Murschel

COPY EDITOR Dan Buckwalter

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR Anita Johnson

INTERIM PUBLISHER Mark Zusman

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Ester Barkai, Dan Bryant, Emerson Brady, Tom Coffin, Ayisha Elliott, Henry Houston, Bob Keefer, Will Kennedy, Chandra LeGue, Rick Levin, Susan Palmer, Taylor Perse, William Sullivan, John Zerzan

HAPPENING PEOPLE Paul Nevel

INTERNS Melvin Bravo, Faheem Kahn

CATALYST JOURNALISM PROJECT INTERNS Eliza Aronson, Sophia Cossette, Bentley Freeman, Tristin Hoffman, Emma J Nelson, Alicia Santiago, Eve Weston, Amelia Winkelman

art department

ART DIRECTOR/PRODUCTION MANAGER Todd Cooper

GRAPHIC ARTIST Chelsea Lovejoy

TECHNOLOGY/WEBMASTER James Bateman

advertising

DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING Rob Weiss

outreach

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT Jody Rolnick

business

ACCOUNTANT Kernutt Stokes

DISTRIBUTORS

Eliza Aronson, Bob Becker, Joe Burke, Chandler Henderson, Derek Ingram, Kenneth Kaltenbaugh, Pedaler's Express, Tina Vellody

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Place numbers 1-9 so that each row, column and 3x3 square has each number only once.

letters

A THANK YOU FOR 'WHEN LIFE BEGINS'

I thank Minister Dan Bryant for his view on "When Life Begins."

I have always struggled with how to articulate my beliefs in this question.

I am a person of faith, but not a believer in all the doctrines-translations of the Bible currently put forth in organized religions.

So it was very refreshing to read Bryant's view and what he bases it on. His is a voice of reason, based on facts and educated opinion, not just singular beliefs and hyperbole.

Our politicians should indeed "remember to be neutral on religious doctrine." I would add that trying to force a biased view of this issue to attain your political goals is not a very Christian act either.

Marion Sproul
Eugene

HOLDING TAXPAYERS HOSTAGE

Major league baseball is a \$10 billion per year industry. They sponsor minor league teams as a revenue producing training ground for their players.

The Eugene Emeralds and their parent club, the San Francisco Giants, have insulted Oregon taxpayers with their proposal for a new stadium. To pay for the proposed \$90.5 million cost to build the stadium, the Emeralds offered to contribute \$23.5 million. Since that figure includes \$20 million for future rent and sponsorships, their actual cost would be \$3.5 million, which leaves taxpayers stuck with an \$87 million bill, and also leave taxpayers with the costs of maintenance and operations, as well as represent a huge loss of property tax revenue.

The Giants are using the same tactic the Athletics organization did, which is to hold the team hostage and say that if we want to see them again, we will have to come up with the money.

A better use of \$87 million would be for the taxpayers to sponsor a short season team that could share PK Park with the Ducks baseball team. It could also be a source of revenue to add to the general fund.

Steve Hiatt
Eugene

FIND A BETTER USE FOR TAX DOLLARS

In May 2023, 79.3 percent of Lane County voters chose to keep spending \$22-plus million a year to fund the county jail and youth detention center.

Recently, we have seen what these facilities are doing for our community. The Feb. 22 *Eugene Weekly* article "Strip Searching Juveniles" revealed how young people have been intrusively strip searched on a regular basis (in violation of state guidelines) at the Lane County Youth Detention Center.

The following March 1 story by KMTR said, "The county says no one at the

center has been reprimanded for using strip-searches. The county also has no data on the number of recent comprehensive searches." Youth who've already experienced trauma have been harmed again through these searches, thanks to our tax dollars.

Another way our \$22-plus million is being used? See the Feb. 29 viewpoint "In Defense of Decriminalization." As a former addict and now a medic, Dylan Curran writes, "Addiction is not a death sentence, but time served easily could be.... What we need is to support people in recovery with shelters and low-barrier housing. And a jail cell doesn't count."

Yet Lane County officials tout the jail as a way to help people with addiction and mental health issues, and voters keep funding the jail — but sadly for the future Lane Stabilization Center, "most funding options have been exhausted with only 50 percent of the expected build cost raised." I would *love* a levy that uses our tax dollars to help people who are struggling, rather than incarcerating them.

Laura Ray
HealingNotHandcuffs.org
Eugene

AN AMAZING CINDERELLA

I had the pleasure of seeing Ballet Fantastique's production of *Cinderella* last weekend. It was truly amazing. The dancers are excellent and were having so much fun hamming it up. The music and singing by Shelley James and her band was so enjoyable. The four women who sang had incredible voices. And hearing those songs from the '60s and watching ballet being danced to those songs was just joyful.

Please support this amazing community dance group. You'll be glad you do.

Viriam Khalsa
Eugene

MORE TO THE RECREATION AREA

Everyone is relieved to learn that some of our favorite Lane County parks are set to reopen, including the Howard Buford Recreation Area — too often ignored when thought of as Mount Pisgah. And while the media focuses on the Mount Pisgah Arboretum when reporting on the storm, its aftermath and reopening, it is missing the much larger picture that the arboretum is but a small part.

If you hike to the summit, to Swing Hill, you are no longer in the arboretum. The remaining acreage suffered equal devastation, required volunteer support to recover, and received some portion of funding for that to happen. HBRA (Buford Park) is a gift to us at least as beneficial as the arboretum with the same needs for support.

Remember that as you hike on the east side, climb to the summits and enjoy what both have to offer.

Maradee Girt
Eugene

Jonesin' Crossword BY MATT JONES

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Across

1. Interstate entrance
5. Accept formally
10. Beginning from
14. Lake near Buffalo
15. Burton who hosted "Reading Rainbow"
16. Nevada gambling locale
17. Noodles that translate to "little ribbons"
19. Crumbly cheese
20. Piracy venues
21. First claim, slangily
23. Traffic predicament
24. Leafy replacements for burger buns, sometimes
28. Org. that's busy in April
31. Transylvanian count, informally
32. "Blazing Saddles" actress
33. 2019 MLB champs
35. Abr. before a founding date
37. Some orchestral instruments
40. With 42-Across, date hinted at by a hidden sequence in the four long Across answers
42. See 40-Across
44. Horseshoe-like Greek letter
45. Sicilian erupter
47. "Star Trek" character
48. Dirt road grooves
50. Agree to another tour
52. Small pheeve
53. Covert escape route
57. Maximum effort
58. Outbursts from Bart, at times
59. A head
62. "In ___ of gifts ..."

Down

1. Field arbiter
2. Greek god of war
3. Plant parasite
4. Flower fragment
5. Part of ABV
6. End-of-the-year mo.
7. Tube where eggs travel
8. Lose composure
9. Conner's antagonist, in '90s "SNL"
10. Slow companions at home?
11. Pilot predictions, for short
12. The Thursday Murder Club" novelist Richard
13. Arizona mesa dwellers
14. Albanian's neighbor
15. Makeup of Maslow's hierarchy
16. Wild guess
17. Field arbiter
18. Greek god of war
19. Plant parasite
20. Flower fragment
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99. Greek god of war
100. Plant parasite
101. Flower fragment
102. Part of ABV
103. End-of-the-year mo.
104. Tube where eggs travel
105. Lose composure
106. Conner's antagonist, in '90s "SNL"

"Brute Force"

—getting ready for the 15th.

10. Newfoundland sound
11. 1991 Joy Fielding thriller named for a line in a classic kids' primer
12. Alternative to bottled
13. Soap pump contents
18. Not new
22. Bee formation
25. Birch, e.g.
26. Cafe au lait container
27. Flightless South American birds
28. "___ the Unknown" ("Frozen II" song)
29. Barack's first chief of staff
30. Avoid
34. Icelandic band ___ Ros
36. "Damn Yankees" co-director Stanley
38. Roman 651
39. Sealed up
41. Old-fashioned
43. Man-goat of myth
46. "Don't worry about it, I got you"
49. ___ a dime
51. Type of review
53. Department that works with marketing
54. The 1%
55. "One of ___ things is not like the other"
56. Latticework strips
60. Form a scab
61. Air filter acronym
63. Computer tower port
65. Wee child
66. Wee-___ (kids)
67. Close kin, for short



leadership and responsibility. Let's rally behind Knudson and work together to create the Eugene we all envision.

Randy Nishimura
Eugene

EXPAND LOW-INCOME HOUSING

I commend President Biden's ambitious housing plans unveiled in his State of the Union address. His commitment to building and preserving 2 million homes is a critical step toward making affordable housing a reality for millions. The expansion of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit and the introduction of the Neighborhood Homes Tax Credit are game changers for renters and first-time homeowners in Eugene and beyond. These measures will limit rising housing costs and increase access to homeownership.

The \$20 billion Innovation Fund for Housing Expansion is especially promising, as it encourages local innovation to build affordable homes. This, combined with the proposal to build on the Community Reinvestment Act to increase banks' contributions to affordable housing, represents a refreshing federal approach to tackling the national housing crisis.

Actions against rent gouging and junk fees, including national rent control on landlords with federally backed mortgages, along with the largest modern expansion of Housing Choice Vouchers, are essential to protect renters from exploitation and ensure housing stability. This plan is a good start for all seeking affordable housing, and we all need to urge Congress to act swiftly.

Kevin Cronin
Eugene



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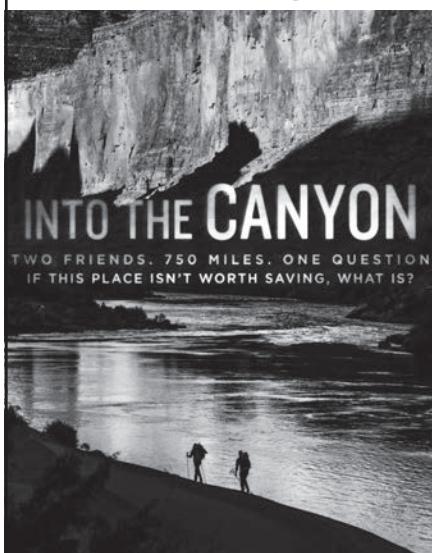
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VIEWPOINT BY JULIE STEWART

Holding Leaders Accountable

A STATEMENT FROM THE TEACHER WHO FILED A COMPLAINT WITH 4J AGAINST SUPERINTENDENT ANDY DEY

I am the teacher who filed the formal complaint of sexual harassment against Superintendent Andy Dey on Feb. 24 for kissing me on the cheek without my consent. While this may have played a role in persuading the Eugene District 4J School Board to part ways with him, I am in no way taking credit for the board's decision. My complaint was just one of several allegations against Dey, and the board may well have reached the same decision without my complaint.

But since I am in a position to speak out when others who have filed complaints may not be able to, I want to share my story. Word about my complaint has spread quickly, and I would much rather tell my full story openly than have it continue to be gossiped about.

As an educator, I work hard to set a good example for my students. I love my job and I genuinely enjoy working with teenagers. I find them hilarious, creative and caring, and they fill me with hope for the future.

However, one difficult thing about teaching teenagers is knowing the many dangers they will face as they make their way in the world. In this country, approximately 25 percent of women will be sexually assaulted. It kills me to think that one in four of the amazing young women I teach will have to go through that.

It needs to change, and change starts with holding people accountable any time they violate boundaries. To be clear, I do not consider what Dey did to me to be sexual assault. But combating the pervasiveness of sexual assault doesn't just involve prosecuting rapists. It involves changing the cultural expectation that men are entitled to touch women's bodies.

By filing this complaint, I am setting an example for my students that when someone touches you in an unwelcome way without your consent, you hold them accountable. It may be the most important thing I ever teach them.

I teach science at South Eugene High School, where I have worked for the past 16 years. During the time Dey was principal of South, our relationship could best be described as adversarial. In my career, I have worked with five principals and a dozen vice principals and have gotten along fine with all of them, except for Dey. I found him to be extremely dismissive of my input as a professional. If I questioned any of his decisions, he reacted aggressively. Nearly every interaction I had with him was excruciatingly unpleasant for me.

When Dey became the 4J director of secondary education, I decided to adopt a policy of minimal contact with him for my own mental health. I refused to make any contact with him, even by email, unless it was absolutely necessary for my job. I continued this policy once he became superintendent.

I was content to keep this détente right until the moment he walked up and kissed me.

It happened at the Celebrate South event, which is put on by the Friends of South organization as a fundraiser for the school. I was talking to a friend, when Dey walked up and greeted her by hugging her and kissing her on the cheek. She and Dey are friends outside of work, so I found this a bit surprising, but not inexplicable.

However, Dey then turned to me and greeted me the same way. He did not ask for my consent. I tried to tell him to stop, but the words would not come out. I felt his arm reach around my back and his lips touch the side of my head, along with a loud "mwah" in my ear. I was so shocked that I froze completely and could not move or talk for several moments.

Once I regained control of my body, I quickly walked away. I ran into another teacher I work with, and I explained what had just happened. He reassured me that Dey's behavior was inappropriate and I was right to be upset. I decided I needed to say something to Dey, since I had been unable to speak during the incident. I found him in the reception hall and told him to never kiss me again. He apologized and said that kissing on the cheek was common in his family. Which is fine, but I am not a member of his family nor his friend. I am his employee, and kissing an employee is wildly inappropriate.

I don't believe that Dey necessarily had ill intent when he kissed me. But, as I have been taught at 4J professional development trainings, it is not intent, but impact that matters. And, for a number of reasons, this event was extremely impactful for me. First off, given our history I would not consent to even shaking Dey's hand, much less being kissed by him. Secondly, I have a history of childhood abuse and the feeling of being frozen and unable to move my body was devastatingly familiar to me. Being forced to relive such a moment filled me with rage and panic.

Finally, I have spent the past five years putting up firm boundaries with Dey and working to minimize contact. He demolished those boundaries and forced me into a position where I would have to talk about and think about him almost constantly during the investigation. While he may have had no ill intent, the negative impacts of his actions will continue to reverberate throughout my life for some time.

I am grateful to the 4J school board for holding Dey accountable by not renewing his contract. I am even more grateful to the other women who had the courage to file complaints against Dey before I filed mine. Sadly, it often seems that women are not believed until there is a critical mass making similar allegations.

I do wish that before Dey was hired the school board had believed the numerous people who sent letters describing Dey as a bully, as this whole situation could have been avoided. I hope that the board learns from this experience and uses it to make better hiring decisions in the future.

Julie Stewart is a longtime science teacher at South Eugene High School.

LIFT PEOPLE OUT OF POVERTY

My letter from a month ago called for Congress to pass the bipartisan tax bill that included an increase in the child tax credit ("Pro-EW, Pro Child Tax Credit," 2/1). No doubt many of us called our representatives to tell them to pass this poverty battling initiative: the House overwhelmingly passed it with majorities of both parties voting for it. Now it is the Senate's turn. The number is the same, 202-224-3121, to call your senators to pass this critical legislation. Half a million children lifted out of poverty and 16 million people will be more likely

to avoid hunger and homelessness.

Willie Dickerson
Snohomish, Washington

SAVE THE COUGAR

Cougar habitat is decreasing due to human development and wildfires. Interactions with humans are increasing. Doesn't it make sense, given their role as apex predators, to stop the hunting that leaves orphaned cougars and allow young cougars to be adequately nurtured and taught to hunt correctly by their mothers? This would help keep livestock, pets, and humans safe. It is also the right thing to do: an orphaned cougar kitten under 6

months of age has zero percent of survival if a hunter kills their mother. It will starve or be eaten by a predator. Oregon law acknowledges kittens and disallows the hunting of a mother with spotted kittens; however, the mother leaves her kittens in a den when she hunts, so there is no way for a hunter to tell if she has kittens.

California made hunting illegal in the early 1990s and has seen no rise in human-cougar conflicts, and Colorado has it in the ballot to follow suit. It is time for the free-thinking voters of Oregon to do the same.

Jessica Church
Eugene

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Keating Seeks to Continue

INCUMBENT EUGENE CITY COUNCILOR MATT KEATING SEEKS RE-ELECTION IN THE MAY PRIMARY

By Eliza Aronson

City Councilor Matt Keating says that of the work he's done in his current term on the Eugene City Council, representing south Eugene, he's most proud of protecting the urban growth boundary and leaning into creative ways to support co-op housing and new housing developments downtown and along the riverfront.

Keating is running as the incumbent to retain his Ward 2 seat in the May 21 primary election.

Additionally, he tells *Eugene Weekly* that he's proud of the collaborative work with law enforcement and the City Council to prohibit fireworks in the South Hills area.

"It upsets folks who have PTSD, it upsets our four-legged friends in the community," he says. "But there's a serious fire danger that's growing, and council took action that I helped lead and I'm tremendously proud of that work."

Regarding the closure of PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center's University District hospital, the Ward 2 councilor says it makes him "sad beyond words to see emergency room departments and hospitals leave our community when we should be ramping up care and access and affordability."

He says he applauds state Rep. Nancy Nathanson and the Lane County legislative delegation for looking at the issue from a state perspective, but said that from a municipal



INCUMBENT CITY COUNCILOR MATT KEATING IS KNOWN FOR HAVING INTRODUCED 2016 PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL BERNIE SANDERS WITH A 'TO BERN OR NOT TO BERN' SOLILOQUY THAT STARTED OFF, 'WHETHER 'TIS NOBLER IN THE MIND TO SUFFER THE HUFF AND BLUSTER OF THE FAR RIGHT WING, OR TO TAKE ON THE STATUS QUO AND ORGANIZE AGAINST IT.'

Keating says he thinks the funding is a great question for voters. "We're talking about a multi-use facility that is a generational game changer that could allow for activities well beyond a long season single-A baseball season at the fairgrounds, that could be used if there's an emergency disaster, whether it's a cooling center or an emergency respite center."

On Feb. 21 the Eugene City Council voted 7-1 to tentatively refer a 20-year \$15 million bond measure that would

Manning, Mayor Lucy Vinis and Yeh.

"I've been really fortunate to work with Matt during his first term, and to get to know him as both a councilor and as a person — a person that has really strong values of empathy, transparency, equity and especially family," Yeh said at the event.

Keating is running opposed by Lisa Warnes in the May primary where nonpartisan candidates who get more than 50 percent of the vote go on the November ballot unopposed. He says, "I have a track record on City Council, and I have a track record of getting stuff done. And that track record is collaborative in nature and is communicative, and it recognizes that not only is politics not a spectator sport, but it's a team effort."

According to OreStar, Keating has raised \$13,174.11 since filing. Manning, Vinis and the Democratic Party of Oregon 353 have donated to his campaign.

In addition to currently representing Ward 2, Keating has been a member of the Lane Community College Board of Education since 2013, has represented Oregon Democrats as a National Committeeman to the Democratic National Committee since 2017, and locally serves House District 8 Democrats as a precinct committee person.

To find out more about the upcoming virtual hearing on Ems stadium, go to Eugene-or.gov. You can find more information at MattKeating.org.

perspective, the city has an opportunity to explore potential partners on the west side of town or downtown area.

Asked whether the city of Eugene should help fund a new Ems baseball stadium, Keating says, "I have a special affinity and love for our baseball team in our organization. And full transparency, I am a guest announcer for the Ems periodically."

go toward funding the stadium to voters in May. Councilor Jennifer Yeh was the lone "no" vote. A virtual joint public hearing is scheduled for noon March 13 for what is officially known as the Lane County Multi-Use Stadium.

Friends and supporters at a February event kicking off Keating's campaign at Mazzi's voiced their endorsements. Those in attendance included state Sen. James

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Oregon Sets a New Bar

OREGON OFFERS AN ALTERNATIVE METHOD TO BECOMING AN ATTORNEY
OUTSIDE THE REGULATED BAR EXAM

By Melvin Bravo

The Oregon State Bar regulates the legal profession in this state, and law students in Oregon, as in most U.S. states, must pass the state bar exam to practice as a lawyer.

But starting May 15, Oregon will offer a Supervised Practice Portfolio Examination (SPPE) for those studying law, creating a different pathway for lawyers to obtain their license in the state. Aspiring lawyers will be able to substitute experience working under the supervision of a licensed Oregon lawyer for taking the formal exam under the new program.

The change comes after the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted exams and at a time when the effectiveness and equity of standardized testing is being questioned. According to the Oregon State Bar, the new supervised practice is “expected to address some of the weaknesses and inequities inherent in standardized testing models.”

A 2022 article in the *University of Michigan Journal of Law Reform* found that “higher proportions of Black and Hispanic students in a law school’s entering class are associated with lower first-time bar passage rates for that school” three years later.

And according to the American Bar Association, nationally in 2021 the first-time pass rate for the bar exam was 61 percent for Black law school graduates and 72 percent for Hispanic, compared to 85 percent for white law school grads.

Oregon has three law schools: Lewis & Clark Law School, Willamette University College of Law and the University of Oregon School of Law. Each one’s graduates currently take the traditional three-part bar exam of

multiple choice questions, essays and a real-world legal task component. The Oregon Supreme Court approved the change in licensing in November 2023.

Age is also a factor. John Parry, associate dean and professor at Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, says classes at Lewis and Clark have been smaller in scale compared to previous years. He says the Boomer generation is retiring and those replacing them have been smaller in numbers, perhaps calling for a new way for lawyers to take the exam. Parry was Lewis and Clark’s representative in the committee that helped pass this alternative exam.

examinations. It involves working for an Oregon employer under the supervision of a licensed Oregon attorney, building a portfolio around real cases, and completing 675 hours of paid work.

The bar says that applicants must also produce a portfolio containing at least eight pieces of written legal work product, lead at least two client interviews and two negotiations, among other requirements, all of which are reviewed by the Oregon Board of Bar Examiners to assess the applicants’ competence to practice law.

The program applies to anyone with a degree from a law school accredited by the American Bar Asso-

‘NATIONALLY IN 2021, THE FIRST-TIME PASS RATE FOR THE BAR EXAM WAS 61 PERCENT FOR BLACK LAW SCHOOL GRADUATES AND 72 PERCENT FOR HISPANIC, COMPARED TO 85 PERCENT FOR WHITE LAW SCHOOL GRADS.’

— American Bar Association

A 2022 Economic survey found that the average age of participants in Oregon has increased about 3 percent since 2017, from 47.6 to 49.2 years old. The survey found that lawyers with more tenure are aging out, while younger lawyers are more likely to work outside of the state.

“One of the things about the SPPE is the person is going to be practicing law in Oregon, learning Oregon law and applying Oregon law,” Parry says.

According to the Oregon State Bar, SPPE offers applicants a hands-on method in the field, giving them an opportunity and choice outside the standardized bar

ciation, including those outside Oregon. And though other states are exploring possible alternatives to the bar exam, New Hampshire and Wisconsin are the only other states that have permanent alternative pathways to practicing law.

Oregon State Bar says the Oregon Bar Exam continues to be an option and “offers applicants a Uniform Bar Exam score that is portable to other jurisdictions.”

Parry says that supervised practice seems like it can bring, “a greater degree of confidence that licensing is going to be related to what lawyers do.”

Go to OSBar.org/sppe for more information.

slant

• It has been suggested that Colt Gill, the popular former superintendent of Bethel School District, **fill in for 4J while the board searches for a new superintendent to replace Andy Dey.** That would give the board more time, and filling that position — and doing it well — will take more time. Gill went from Bethel to a state education position which he has now completed. Superintendents have tough jobs, answering to boards, parents, teachers, students, and the district wants someone familiar with 4J. Do we have any candidates?

• The recurring question came up at the City Club of Eugene meeting on March 8: **Are the homeless people in Eugene from this area** or do they come here because their grapevine tells them homeless people are treated well here? That question comes up again and again as a way to get out of caring for our community members in need. They're in Eugene, and Eugene needs

to try and solve the problem. Eugene mayoral candidates Shanaé Joyce-Stringer and Kaarin Knudson will talk at the noon March 15 City Club of Eugene meeting at Carlita's Restaurant in the Gordon Hotel at 555 Oak Street.

• After *Eugene Weekly* went to press, the **Eugene City Council was scheduled to vote on a proposed general obligation bond that would raise more than \$15 million for construction of a proposed multi-use stadium at the Lane County Fairgrounds.** Calling it what it is — a new Ems stadium — the proposal has enthusiastic proponents and equally vociferous detractors. The council had already put the bond measure on the May 21 ballot, but had the option to pull it off at its March 13 meeting. Go to *Eugene-Weekly.com* for updates.

• March 22 is the last day of the terrific *Art of Bricolage* show at Maude Kerns Art Center featuring nine Oregon artists who create work from recycled materials. The exhibit encourages the concepts of “reduce, reuse, recycle and reimagine.” **The art center also has the exciting announcement that Art and the Vineyard Festival will return this summer to Alton**

Baker Park July 5-7 after a long pandemic pause. Finally, the popular Jello Art Show is back March 23. Head on over to MKArtcenter.org/jello.html to find out more.

• **“This community lost a beacon of community service and justice yesterday,”** the Eugene Police Department writes. “We mourn the loss of a remarkable soul.” Police Commission Chair Dallas A. Boggs died March 5, and he is remembered for his work through the community, as board member of Sponsors Inc., an ambassador raising money for Men Wear Pink of Lane County (American Cancer Society), a member of the African American Community Coalition, a friendly face at Brenner's Furniture in downtown Eugene and more.

• **Activist Alert:** On Friday, March 15, Students for Justice in Palestine at the University of Oregon, together with the BDS Movement (Boycott, Divest, Sanctions Movement) and more than 10 local organizations will march from the Wayne Morse Federal Courthouse at 405 E. 8th Avenue to march to the University of Oregon to demand “University of Oregon divest from the on-going Israeli apartheid and genocide.”



The Magic of Non-Alcoholic Mixology

HIGH STREET TONICS, EUGENE'S NON-ALCOHOLIC BAR AND BOTTLE SHOP, INVITES YOU OUT FOR A SOBER NIGHT ON THE TOWN

By Emma J Nelson

Cheri Hammons was 8 years old when she made her first magic potion. She pulled the recipe from her favorite book, *Freckle Juice* by Judy Blume, and toiled away in the kitchen. She fell in love with mixing things together, Hammons says, and as she aged she looked into more medicinal combinations. Now, 36 years later, Hammons brews the tonics and bitters that she serves at her non-alcoholic bar.

Hammons created High Street Tonics in 2021 during her first Dry January after the start of the pandemic, she says. She missed the taste of a fun drink so she began experimenting with mixers.

“People were re-examining their drinking and coping mechanisms and whatnot,” Hammons says. “But for me it was more of a flavor thing.”

Hammons was already exploring herbs that supported the nervous system in teas and tonics, but she soon realized that she could create a subtle calming effect without the addition of alcohol, she says.

“I didn’t start with cocktails or mixology or anything like that until I got sick of alcohol,” Hammons says. “Because when I was a drinker, I was drinking for a reason.”

That reason, Hammons says, was to get drunk, not to enjoy the taste of the drink in her hand. Currently, Hammons falls into a “gray area” where she drinks on occasion — sometimes to come up with sober alternatives — but she prefers non-alcoholic beverages.

“We’re not trying to convince anyone to be sober,” Hammons says. “We’re just trying to show people that there’s another way to socialize and provide a space for



Photos by Todd Cooper

that where you could go out with friends and still drive home.”

The non-alcoholic beverages that Hammons creates are far more than your Shirley Temple or your sugar-loaded mocktail. Instead, every one of Hammons’ beverages is poured with a non-alcoholic liquor, a tonic, some bitters and a mixer.

“We’ve moved way beyond juice, syrups and soda,” Hammons says. “And [High Street Tonics] is just the tip of the iceberg.”

While some of High Street Tonics’ menu is meant to mimic an alcoholic beverage, such as its Unthinkable Non Fashioned, others were created as something entirely new. Hammons and her husband, Ian, are constantly experimenting with new drinks, she says, and only the best make it onto the menu.

Hammons says that the process is culinary as they test different flavors and combinations.

“It’s a science,” Hammons says. “Especially when you can add in different things that support your body in so many different ways.”

To showcase the effort and knowledge that goes into mixing a non-alcoholic cocktail, Hammons whips up a Rose Quartz, a drink of her own creation.



Hammons begins with 2 oz. of a tequila replacement, which is a spirit made from the same plant materials as tequila, she says. By using the same herbs and adding capsaicin, a chili pepper extract, to emulate the burn, distillers have created a remarkably similar flavor to tequila, Hammons says.

Hammons then adds a half ounce of High Street Tonics’ Mellow Rose Tonic and two drops of High Street Tonics’ Reset Bitters, both of which were brewed with nervous system-supporting herbs, and both feature rose petals, hibiscus and rose hips. While the bitters are alcohol-based, the amount of alcohol within is “equivalent to a ripe banana,” Hammons says. She keeps a glycerin-based, non-alcoholic alternative in stock for those who want to avoid it all together.

Hammons pours a can of Bitter Love Cranberry Gentian seltzer into the glass, stirs the concoction and garnishes it with an orange slice.

Watching Hammons work is like watching a potion be brewed, and the drink itself tastes equally magical. High Street Tonics changes its menu seasonally, and it will be debuting its updated spring menu, including the Rose Quartz, this week.

High Street Tonics is located at 267 W. 8th Ave. It is open from 12 to 6 pm Wednesday and Thursday, 12 to 9 pm Friday and Saturday, and 11 am to 4 pm Sunday. All drinks are \$10.



MAX'S MOSCOW MULE

See a Bar About a Mule

A COUPLE OF EUGENE WEEKLY'S OWN HEAD OUT TO SAMPLE THE VENERABLE COCKTAIL, WITH MIXED RESULTS

By Bentley Freeman and Amelia Winkelman

While the Moscow Mule — with its ginger beer base — might seem new to some, the drink actually dates back to 1940, when, as the story goes, a bar with too much ginger beer, a woman with too many copper mugs and a need to unload some then-unpopular vodka all came together.

While the tale of the mule (mule because it has a kick, technically the drink is a buck) has some variants, it was originally crafted in West Hollywood, California, at the Cock n' Bull bar some 84 years ago, and the drink, according to the *Eugene Weekly* interns we sent out to sample it, stands the test of time.

A buck is a cocktail that contains a spirit, citrus and either ginger ale or ginger beer. Ginger beer has more of that kick — which is also why it wasn't popular with 1940s Americans who preferred sweeter ginger ale. Vodka, that tasteless clear liquor, was relatively unknown to the whiskey-drinking public, but when the two came together with a squeeze of lime, the Moscow Mule came to stay.

DOWNTOWN SIPS

Trying a new drink is either ecstatically rewarding or an inconvenient disappointment. When it's time for me to spice up my drinks rotation, I base my decision on visual allure rather than my preferred alcohol and mixers. I despise vodka, and I'm indifferent to ginger, but the charming copper cup a Moscow Mule comes in makes it irresistible.

At Jameson's Bar, the bartender, Jeff Curry, asks me if I want their house vodka. It's from Rose City Distilling. He pours Fentimans ginger beer and a spritz of lime juice over the ice and liquor, then slides the sleek Absolut copper mug toward me. I take three sips before deciding the bitter, tangy ginger fizz has delightfully surprised me.

A block away, at The Barn Light bar, my mule comes in a large hammered copper mug. This drink is sweeter and less gingery. Sky McAdory stands behind the bar and tells me they use ginger ale, at least for now. McAdory says Barn Light has its own version of a Moscow Mule

— an Apple jack, with Jack Daniels, apple cider, ginger beer and cinnamon. I don't feel up to trying another new drink tonight, but next weekend, I know where I'm going.

— *Amelia Winkelman*

EUGENE'S COLLEGIATE MOSCOW MULES

There is only one true god of cocktails. Nothing quite like a mix of ginger beer, a dash of lime juice and vodka gets my hand eagerly drawing back the copper tumbler to my mouth.

But what is the best one in Eugene? I had to go to the source, and who drinks more than anybody else? College students. "Max's makes a pretty good mule, I gotta say," University of Oregon student Dylan Luna tells me, "I think it's better than Rennies."

UO student Lupita "Pita" Ruiz concurs. "At Rennies it tastes like juice, but at Max's it tastes better," she says.

So I began my quest, taking a light stroll to Rennie's Landing to test out those claims.

"There is only one true god of cocktails. Nothing quite like a mix of ginger beer, a dash of lime juice and vodka gets my hand eagerly drawing back the copper tumbler to my mouth."

— *BENTLEY FREEMAN*

Now, be warned: the following review might not be 100 percent accurate. I did have several drinks before my first Moscow Mule of the night, and while I do not believe my drunkenness impacted the taste or drinking experience — I find it important to mention nonetheless.

Rennie's Moscow Mule, while quite refreshing at 11 at night, tasted more like a soda water base instead of ginger beer — more like a vodka soda with a shit ton of lime. "Refreshing, considering how drunk I am," says drunk me that night.

Two out of five stars. Also, I walked home.

Max's Tavern had a stellar Moscow Mule. To put it plainly, it lived up to the hype. Delectable ginger beer with spice but no bite, just perfect. A couple squirts of lime with tang but no sting, just perfect. The right Moscow Mule for a college student?

Yes.

"A little bit less ice [than Rennies], a little bit more flavor," my inebriated self mused.

But I have to knock one point off for the presentation. I was excited to drink my beverage out of a copper tumbler, and yet I had to drink it out of a glass.

Four out of five stars. — *Bentley Freeman*

Find Jameson's Bar at 115 W. Broadway, 541-485-9913; The Barn Light at 924 Willamette Street, 541-726-0313; Rennie's Landing at 1214 Kincaid Street, 541-687-0600 and Max's Tavern at 550 E. 13th Avenue, 541-349-8986.

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what's happening



THURSDAY

MARCH 14

ART/CRAFT

Young Artist Studio, 4-6pm today & Thu., Mar. 21, Umpqua Valley Arts Association, 1624 W. Harvard Ave., Roseburg. FREE.

Paint & Sip — Moon Moth, 6:30-8:30pm, Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St., Ste. 104. \$45.

CIVICS

Affordable Housing Trust Fund Advisory Committee, 12:15pm, Sloat rm., Atrium Bldg., 99 W. 10th Ave. FREE. Nathan LeClear of the McKenzie River Trust Addresses City Club, 1:30pm, Siuslaw Public Library, 1460 9th St. FREE.

HRC — Advocacy Work Group, 5-6pm, Online at Eugene-OR.gov. FREE.

Human Rights Commission — Advocacy Work Group, 5pm, Online at Eugene-OR.gov. FREE.

Active Transportation Committee, 5:30pm, Atrium Bldg., 99 W. 10th Ave. FREE. Police Commission Meeting, 5:30pm, Online at Eugene-OR.gov. FREE.

COMEDY

Wild Ones: Open Mic, 8-10pm today & Thu., Mar. 21, WildCraft Cider Works, 232 Lincoln St. FREE.

FILM

NY Dog Film Festival, 5pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$7-10.

Barbie, 7pm, Whiteside Theatre, 461 SW Madison Ave., Corvallis. \$5-8.

Shortcutterie: A Smorgasbord of Short & Microshort Films, 7:30-9pm, The Hybird, 941 W. 3rd Ave. \$5.

FOOD/DRINK

Thursday Tasting: Block 15 Brewing Co., 5-7pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette. FREE samples.

GATHERINGS

Flourish Networking Eugene, 1-2:30pm today & Thu., Mar. 21, Oregon Wine LAB, 488 Lincoln St. Eugene. \$30 per month.

PI DAY, 3:30-6:30pm, Mathnasium of Eugene, 1733 Pearl St. FREE.

Psychedelic Recovery & Wellness Group, 5:30pm,

EDELIC Ctr., 631 E. 19th Ave., Bldg. B. Don.

Shoreline Christian School Open House, 6pm, Florence Seventh-day Adventist Church, 4445 Hwy. 101. FREE.

Murder Mystery Party, 6pm, 255 Madison St. \$40.

Codependents Anonymous (CoDA) Meeting, 7-8pm today & Thu., Mar. 21, Wellsprings Friends School, 3590 W. 18th Ave. FREE.

KIDS/FAMILY

Preschool Storytime, 10:15-10:45am today & Thu., Mar. 21, Bethel Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd. FREE.

Make a Hand Drum, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Outliers & Outlaws Storytelling Series: Queer at the UO, 6-7:30pm, Museum of Natural & Cultural History, 1680 E. 15th Ave. FREE-\$12.

David Lewis — Author of *Tribal Histories of the Willamette Valley* — Book Talk, Reading, Powerpoint & Signing, 7-8:45pm, Tsunami Books, 2585 Willamette. FREE.

MUSIC

Jazz Ambassadors, 5pm, Jazzy Ladies Cafe & Club, 560 Oak St. N/C w/ purchase.

EastSide AllStars at Westside Jam, classic rock-blues, 6pm, Wildfangs Overtime Tavern, 770 S. Bertelsen Rd. N/C.

Gerry Rempel & Hamilton Mays, instrumental jazz-blues-variety, 6pm, Territorial Vineyards & Wine Co., 907 W. 3rd Ave. N/C.

Timothy Patrick, acoustic-variety-humor, 6pm, Driftwood Shores, 88416 1st Ave., Florence. \$20.

The Celtonauts, music of the Emerald Isle, 7pm, beer-garden, 777 W. 6th Ave. N/C.

Umphrey's McGee, eclectic-improv-rock, 7pm, McDonald Theatre, 1010 Willamette. \$39.50-51.50.

Eugene Symphony Orchestra: Beethoven & Marsalis, 7:30pm, The Hult Ctr. \$10-71.

Jonathan Corona's Tribute to Michael Brecker w/ Avery Scanlon, Torrey Newhart, Robert Lassila & Ken Mastrogiovanni, 7:30pm,

The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$20.

Oregon Wind Symphony — *Oldies But Goodies*, 7:30pm, Beall Concert Hall, 961 E. 18th Ave. UO stu. FREE w/ ID, \$10 gen. adm.

Funk Jam, 9pm today & Thu., Mar. 21, Luckey's Club, 933 Olive St. N/C.

Metalachi, metal mariachi band, 9pm, John Henry's, 881 Willamette. \$17-20.

Unofficial Afters ft. Lost Ox, funk-psychedelia-jazz-Americana, 11:30pm, The Big Dirty, 844 Olive St. \$5.

NIGHTLIFE

Beginners Board Game Night, 5pm today & Thu., Mar. 21, Funagain Games Game Parlor, 2711 Oak St. FREE.

Karaoke For Cash, 6pm today & Thu., Mar. 21, Mac's Restaurant & Nightclub, 1626 Willamette. FREE.

Karaoke w/ Jeff, 6pm today & Thu., Mar. 21, Slice Pizzeria & Bar, 325 Blair Blvd. FREE.

Cribbage Night, 6:30pm today & Thu., Mar. 21, Falling Sky Brewpub, 1334 Oak Alley. \$5.

Trivia Night w/ Brett, 6:30pm today & Thu., Mar. 21, Viking Brewing Co., 520 Commercial St., Unit F. FREE.

Trivia Night w/ Forest, 7pm today & Thu., Mar. 21, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave. FREE.

Word., 7-9pm, Wordcrafters, 438 Charnelton St., Ste. 102. \$5.

Karaoke Thursdays, 7:30pm today & Thu., Mar. 21, Happy Hours, 645 River Rd. FREE.

OUTDOORS/RECREATION

Ninkasi Run Club, 5:30pm today & Thu., Mar. 21, The Ninkasi Better Living Rm., 155 Blair Blvd. FREE.

THEATER

Willy Wonka Jr., 6-8pm, North Eugene High School, 200 Silver Ln. \$10.

FRIDAY

MARCH 15

ART/CRAFT

Black Artists of Oregon & Oregon Black Pioneers: In Conversation w/ Jeremy Okai Davis, 5:45pm, Portland Art Museum, Mark

Gear up for events all weekend with green flooding the streets and the luck of the Irish. Spend your Friday night getting your groove on while learning a traditional Irish social dance at Amazon Community Center for the **Céili Saint Patrick's Day Dance**. All ages are welcome; ages 14 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Then on Saturday, Viking Brewing West hosts **St. Paddy's Celebration** with Irish balladeer Tom Threlkeld, Irish tunes from the Fiddlin' Big Sue Band and Americana with an Irish twist from Bake Club. Don't forget to grab some corned beef and cabbage from the Viking Food Truck. Stop by beergarden for a performance of Eugene's only CLRG accredited Irish Dance School, **Blackthorn Academy of Irish Dance**. CLRG is *An Coimisiún Le Rincí Gaelacha*, the Irish Dancing Commission. Can't make it? Don't worry — Blackthorn also performs on Sunday at The PublicHouse. Celebrate the last day of the weekend hopping around to different venues, such as McShane's for **St. Patrick's Celebration** with all-day food specials and bagpipes every two hours from 4 pm to 10 pm. Stop by for more Irish tunes at the **St. Patrick's Day Dinner** hosted by Viking Brewing Southtowne Pub with David Helfand and the Majestic Ensemble blending original multi-cultural inspired music with inspirations derived from the Celtic lands, Middle East and more. If you're interested in walking or running with an Irish twist, then the **Lucky Clover 5K** at Alton Baker Park is for you with three race options, 5K Trail, 5K Road, or 10K Road/Trail. Check out the *What's Happening* calendar for more events.

Céili Saint Patrick's Day Dance is 7pm March 15 at the Amazon Community Center, 2700 Hilyard St., FREE. St. Paddy's Celebration is 5pm March 16 at Viking Brewing West, 520 Commercial St., Unit F. Blackthorn Academy of Irish Dance is 6:30 March 16 at beergarden, 777 West 6th Ave, and 3 pm March 17 at The PublicHouse, 418 A St., Springfield, FREE. St. Patrick's Celebration is all day at McShane's, 86495 College View Rd., with bagpipes starting at 4 pm. St. Patrick's Day Dinner is 5:30 pm at Viking Brewing Southtowne Pub, 2490 Willamette St. Lucky Clover 5K is 5:30 pm at Alton Baker Park, 200 Day Island Rd., \$35 for adults, \$30 for youth 17 & under at Level32Racing.com. — Brianna Murschel

Bldg., 1119 SW. Park Ave., Portland. FREE.

cHouse, 418 A St., Spfd. FREE.

COMEDY

All Ducked Up: Open Mic, 5pm, Twisted Duck, 533 W. Centennial Blvd., Spfd. FREE.

Comedy Hour, 8pm, Dark Pine Coffee, 954 Pearl St. \$15.

DANCE

Dancing w/ the Stars: Live 2024 Tour, 8pm, Hult Ctr. \$39.50-59.50.

GATHERINGS

Josephine County Domestic & Sexual Violence Council Leadership Summit, 10am-3pm, The Bear Hotel, 2101 NE. Spalding Ave., Grants Pass. Email SOregonDSVCouncil@gmail.com for more info.

Recovery Dharma Buddhist Meeting, 10-11:30am, Jesco Club, 340 Blair Blvd. FREE.

Spfd. & Eugene March & Rally for Ceasefire in Gaza, 3-5:30pm, Federal Courthouse, 405 E. 8th Ave.

LGBTQ+ Youth Group, 4-6pm, Amazon Community Ctr., 2700 Hilyard St. FREE.

HOLIDAY

St. Patty's Weekend, 11:30am-9pm, The Publi-

Faroe Rum, Linda Danielson & Sue Cooper, Celtic-upbeat jigs & reels-ballads, 6:30pm, Coast Fork Brewing & Feed Store, 106 S. 6th St., Cottage Grove. N/C.

The Celtonauts, music of the Emerald Isle, 7pm, The PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd. N/C.

Charlene & Her Champagne Bruts w/ Marty Main, jazz, 7:30pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$15.

David Helfand & The Majestic Ensemble, music of the Emerald Isle, 7:30pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. N/C.

Coupe de Ville, rock, 8pm, The Embers, 1811 State Hwy. 99 N. N/C.

EastSide AllStars, classic rock-blues, 8pm, Happy Hours, 645 River Rd. N/C.

Joanne Broh & Her Funky Friends, blues-funk-jazz, 8pm, Mac's Restaurant & Nightclub, 1626 Willamette. \$8.

Natsukashii Soul, 8pm, 255 Madison St. \$10.

Meow Mix, electronic-hip-hop-dance, 9pm, The Cooler Bar, 20 Centennial Lp. N/C.

Nef the Pharaoh, hip-hop, 9pm, The Big Dirty, 844 Olive St.

calendar

NIGHTLIFE

Karaoke w/ Lewie, 9pm, Slice Downtown, 910 Willamette St. FREE.

SPECTATOR SPORTS

College Softball: Oregon at Utah, 3pm today, 11am Sat., Mar. 16 & 10am Sun., Mar. 17. More info at GoDucks.com.

College Baseball: Oregon vs. California, 5:05pm today, 2:05pm Sat., Mar. 16 and 12:05pm Sun., Mar. 17, PK Park. Tickets at GoDucks.com.

TEENS

DIY Squishies, 4pm, Sheldon Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1566 Coburg Rd. FREE.

THEATER

Willy Wonka Jr., 6-8pm, North Eugene High School, 200 Silver Ln. \$10.

Sealed for Freshness, 7:30-10pm, Actors Cabaret of Eugene, 996 Willamette. \$19-60.

SATURDAY

MARCH 16

ART/CRAFT

Spring Sgraffito Workshop, 10am-3pm, Umpqua Valley Arts Association, 1624 W. Harvard Ave., Roseburg. \$75.

COMEDY

Leave Your Troubles at The Door, 7pm & 9:30pm, Olsen Run Comedy Club, 44 E. 7th Ave. \$15-20.

DANCE

Blackthorn Academy of Irish Dance, 6:30-7pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. FREE.

FESTIVAL

Live Wire 20th Anniversary Festival, 2-11pm, Revolution Hall, 1300 SE Stark St., #203, Portland. \$25-150.

FILM

Psychedelic Film, Discussion Circle & Library Browsing, noon-2pm, EDELIC Ctr., 631 E. 19th Ave., Bldg. B. FREE.

Painting the Modern Garden: Monet to Matisse, 1:30pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$10-12.

NY Dog Film Festival, 2pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$7-10.

Shrek, 3pm, Whiteside Theatre, 461 SW Madison Ave., Corvallis. \$5-8.

FOOD/DRINK

Winter Farmers Market, 10am-2pm, Farmers Market Pavilion, 85 E. 8th Ave.

GATHERINGS

Overeaters Anonymous, 9:30-10:30am, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1685 W. 13th Ave. FREE.

Buffalo Exchange's 50th Anniversary Pop-Up Shop, 11am-8pm, Buffalo Exchange, 1275 Willamette St.

TransParent Group, 11am-12:30pm, Email info@transponder.community for the link. FREE.

HEALTH

Occupy Medical Services, 9-11am, St. Vincent de Paul Service Ctr., 450 Hwy. 99. FREE.

HOLIDAY

St. Paddy's, all day, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette.

Shamrock Stroll Bar Crawl, 4pm, Eugene, More info at PubCrawls.com. \$14.

St. Paddy's Celebration, 5-9pm, Viking Brewing Co., 520 Commercial St., Unit F.

KIDS/FAMILY

Baby & Toddler Storytime, 10:15-10:45am, Bethel Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd. FREE.

Family Storytime, 10:15-10:45am, 11-11:30am & 11:45am-12:15pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

LECTURES/CLASSES

March Youth Write Club: Songwriting w/ m5Vibe, 10am-noon, Wordcrafters, 438 Charnelton St., Ste. 102. \$29.

LITERARY ARTS

Bible as Literature: Three Short Books—*The Book of Ruth, Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs*, 9:30am-noon, UO Baker Downtown Ctr., 975 High St. \$95-135.

MUSIC

Mosh Pit Market & All Ages Punk Show, 2pm, Blairally, 245 Blair Blvd. \$10.

Live Music, 6pm, Territorial Vineyards & Wine Co., 907 W. 3rd Ave. N/C.

Monroe Street, Americana, 6pm, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave. N/C.

Shamanic Journeying & Drumming Session w/ Rich Sixel, repetitive rhythm, 6pm, Ctr. for Spiritual Liv-

ing, 390 Vernal St. \$10-20 sug. don.

Upstate Trio & Ripplevision, 6pm, 255 Madison St. N/C.

David Helfand & The Majestic Ensemble, original multi-cultural-inspiration, 7pm, The PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd. N/C.

Candy Apple Bleu, 7:30pm, The Cooler Bar, 20 Centennial Lp. \$15.

Faroe Rum, smooth '70s rock, 7:30pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. N/C.

Laila Biali, Canadian singer-songwriter, 7:30pm, Leonard W. Rice Auditorium, 344 Knox St. N., Monmouth. N/C-\$28.

University Singers & UO Chamber Choir, 7:30pm, Beall Concert Hall, 1225 UO. \$5-10.

Coupe de Ville, rock, 8pm, The Embers, 1811 State Hwy. 99 N. N/C.

James Monroe CD Release w/ The Hank Shreve Band, harmonica-blues, 8pm, Mac's Restaurant & Nightclub, 1626 Willamette. \$10.

HomeBass, multi-genre, 9pm, The Big Dirty, 844 Olive St. \$10.

NIGHTLIFE

Karaoke w/ Lewie, 9pm, Slice Downtown, 910 Willamette. FREE.

RECREATION

Spring Equinox Meditation & Yoga Practice, 2-4pm, Everyday People Yoga, 352 W. 12th Ave. \$44.

SOCIAL DANCE

80's Adult Prom, 7-11pm, Shadow Hills Country Club, 92512 River Rd., Junction City. \$50.

Mega Dance Party: Glow Up, 8-11:45pm, Vet's Club, 1620 Willamette. \$12-15.

DJ Mandy Mac, 9pm, Blairally, 245 Blair Blvd. \$6.

90s vs 2000s Ultimate Dance Party, 10pm-2am, Blairally, 245 Blair Blvd. \$6

SPECTATOR SPORTS

POW! Pro Wrestling Presents Hard Luck, 7-10pm, Whirled Pies Downtown, 199 W. 8th Ave. \$15-35.

THEATER

Willy Wonka Jr., 1-3pm, North Eugene High School, 200 Silver Ln. \$10.

Sealed for Freshness, 7:30-10pm, Actors Cabaret of Eugene, 996 Willamette. \$19-60.

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JORDAN SCHNITZER MUSEUM OF ART

Alison
Saar
Talk
Uproot

Wednesday, April 3 | 6 p.m.

Location: PLC 180
reception to follow at the JSMA



Alison Saar is a Los Angeles-based sculptor, mixed-media, and installation artist. Her artwork focuses on the African diaspora and Black female identity and is influenced by African, Caribbean, and Latin American folk art and spirituality. She will discuss her recent works, three of which are on view at the JSMA in *Strange Weather: From the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation* and *My Body, My Choice? Art and Reproductive Justice*. *Grow'd* (2019), a life-sized, bronze statue depicting the literary character Topsy from *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, monumentalizes the intersecting histories of cotton, slavery, and identity in the United States. *Uproot* and *Plucked* (2023), a pair of double-sided paintings on vintage cotton-picking bags, respond to the 2022 overturning of *Roe v. Wade* by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Alison Saar's visit is sponsored by Jordan D. Schnitzer.



RSVP online at

<https://jsma.uoregon.edu/artist-talk-alison-saar>

 JORDAN SCHNITZER FAMILY FOUNDATION
jordanschnitzer.org

Alison Saar (American, b. 1956), *Uproot*, 2022, charcoal and acrylic on vintage patched cotton-picking bag and found hooks and chain, 108 x 27 x 4 inches. © Alison Saar. Collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer.

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SUNDAY

MARCH 17

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

ART/CRAFT

Paint & Pints — Springtime in Eugene, 4-6pm, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave. \$50.

COMEDY

Come On In! Open Mic, 7:30pm, The Barn Light Bar, 924 Willamette. FREE.

DANCE

Blackthorn Academy of Irish Dance, 3-3:30pm, The PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd. FREE.

FILM

NY Cat Film Festival, 2:15pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$7-10.

Painting the Modern Garden: Monet to Matisse, 4:45pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$10-12.

GATHERINGS

Sunday Gathering, 10:30-11:30am, The Center, 390 Vernal St. FREE.

Buffalo Exchange's 50th Anniversary Pop-Up Shop, 11am-8pm, Buffalo Exchange, 1275 Willamette.

Way of The Tao — Intentional Drumming Circle, 2-4pm, Core Star Cultural Ctr., 439 W 2nd Ave. Don.

Emerald Valley Ctr. for Spiritual Living, LGBTQ friendly, 4-5:30pm, Hilyard Community Ctr., 2580 Hilyard St. Don.

HOLIDAY

St. Patrick's Day Celebration, all day, McShane's, 86495 College View Rd.

Lucky Clover 5K Run, 5:30pm, Alton Baker Park, 200 Day Island Rd. \$30-35.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner w/ David Helfand & the Majestic Ensemble, original multi-cultural-inspirations, 5:30-8pm, Viking Brewing Southtowne Pub, 2490 Willamette.

KIDS/FAMILY

Family Fun: Building, 1-5pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Food Combining For Beginners, 1:30-2:30pm, Natural Grocers, 201 Coburg Rd. FREE.

Nutrition & Lifestyle Medicine Classes, 2-4pm, Eugene Family YMCA Don Stathos Campus, 600 E. 24th Ave. FREE.

MUSIC

Eugene & Spfd. Community Orchestra Concert, 2pm, Spfd. High School Auditorium, 875 7th St., Spfd. N/C.

Delgani String Quartet: *Dream Circle*, 3pm, First Church of Christ, Scientist, 1390 Pearl St. \$30.

Music of the Early English Baroque, 3pm, Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 3925 Hilyard St. N/C.

Jazz at the Ciderhouse, 4pm, WildCraft Cider Works, 232 Lincoln St. N/C.

Simon Trpčeski, solo piano recital, 4pm, The LaSells Stewart Ctr., 875 SW. 26th St., Corvallis. \$30.

EastSide Sunday Jam, 5pm, Twisted River Saloon, 1444 Main St., Spfd. N/C.

NIGHTLIFE

RWMcCabe Studios: Open Mic, 4pm, Coldfire Brewing Co., 263 Mill St. FREE.

Karaoke w/ Jeff, 6pm, Slice Pizzeria & Bar, 325 Blair Blvd. FREE.

Open Mic, 5:30pm, The PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd. FREE.

Karaoke Sundays, 7:30pm, Happy Hours, 645 River Rd. FREE.

RECREATION

Yoga + Beer, 10:30-11:30am, The PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd. \$25.

SOCIAL DANCE

Sensual Bachata Sundays, 6-9pm, Oregon Wine LAB, 488 Lincoln St. \$5-10.

SPIRITUAL

Divine Springtime, 10-11:30am, Bahá'í Ctr. of Eugene, 1458 Alder St. FREE.

THEATER

Sealed for Freshness, 2-4:30pm, Actors Cabaret of Eugene, 996 Willamette. \$19-60.

Exactly Like You: The Dorothy Fields Songbook, 3pm & 5:30pm, The Shedd, 868 High St. \$5-10.

MUSIC

Jolie Holland, folk, 7:30pm, The Hybrid Gallery, 941 W. 3rd Ave. \$25.

MONDAY

MARCH 18

ART/CRAFT

Developing Glazes, 5:30-7:30pm, Umpqua Valley Arts Association, 1624 W. Harvard Ave., Roseburg. \$50.

COMEDY

Comedy Open Mic w/ Seth Milstein, 8-10pm, Slice Pizzeria & Bar, 325 Blair Blvd. FREE.

FILM

Painting the Modern Garden: Monet to Matisse, 7pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$10-12.

GATHERINGS

Pet Night w/ The Bunny, 4-7pm today & Tue., Mar. 19, Valley River Ctr. Mall, 293 Valley River Ctr. More info at ValleyRiverCenter.com.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Sex & Shame Brunch w/ Win, 9-11am, As You Like It: The Pleasure Shop, 1655 W. 11th Ave., #1. \$25.

MUSIC

Documentary & Discussion on Dementia, 5-7:30pm, Campbell Community Ctr., 155 High St. FREE.

NIGHTLIFE

Beats & Boards, 6:30pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. FREE.

Cribbage Night, 6:30pm, Coldfire Brewing Co., 263 Mill St. \$3.

Open Mic, 6:30pm, Houndstooth Public House, 1795 W. 6th Ave. FREE.

Trivia Mondays, 6:30pm, The PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd. FREE.

SPIRITUAL

Mindful Integration & Breathwork w/ PSILO Temple, 7-9pm, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1300 Pearl St. FREE.

TEENS

Study Help, 4-6pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

TUESDAY

MARCH 19

ART/CRAFT

Upcycle Art Workshop for Tweens & Teens, 4-6pm, Shift Community Cycles, 811 W. 6th Ave. FREE.

Needle Felting for Beginners, 6:15pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

CIVICS

Human Rights Commission Meeting, 5:30-7:30pm, LCC Downtown Campus, rm. 319, 101 W. 10th Ave. FREE.

FILM

The Big Read Book Discussion, 4-6pm, Shelton McMurphy Johnson House, 303 Willamette. FREE.

TransPonder Book Club, 5-6pm, Email info@transponder.community for link. FREE.

Book Launch for Survival Tips: Stories, 5:30-7pm,

KIDS/FAMILY

Baby Storytime, 10:15am, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

Toddler Storytime, 11am & 11:45am, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Be Writing, 9:15-11:45am, Wordcrafters, 438 Charnett St., Ste. 102. \$3.

Releasing w/ Writing, 11:30am-12:30pm, Trauma Healing Project, 631 E. 19th Ave., Bldg. B. \$5-15.

Sips of Happiness Mindfulness, 1-2pm, Trauma Healing Project, 631 E. 19th Ave., Bldg. B. \$15.

Tween Writing Club, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

Lasting Happiness From Within, 6-7:30pm, Mahonia Bldg., 120 Shelton McMurphy Blvd. \$10.

Queer Choir Collective: Drop-In Song Circle, 6-7pm, Heartwise, 1840 Willamette. FREE.

Writing Workshop: Revision, 6pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

LITERARY ARTS

The Big Read Book Discussion, 4-6pm, Shelton McMurphy Johnson House, 303 Willamette. FREE.

TransPonder Book Club, 5-6pm, Email info@transponder.community for link. FREE.

Book Launch for Survival Tips: Stories, 5:30-7pm,

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calendar

Wordcrafters, 438 Charnelton St., Ste. 102. FREE.

Verbiage Splurge, 7-9pm, John Henry's, 881 Willamette. FREE.

MUSIC

Roosters Blues Jam, 7pm, Mac's Restaurant & Nightclub, 1626 Willamette. N/C.

Delgani String Quartet: *Dream Circle*, 7:30pm, First Church of Christ, Scientist, 1390 Pearl St. \$30.

Shedd Choral Society: *Vivaldi Credo*, 7:30pm, The Shedd, 868 High St. N/C.

Sam Bond's Garage Banned, 8pm, Sam Bond's, 407 Blair Blvd. N/C.

NIGHTLIFE

Eugene Chess Club, 6pm, Bill & Tim's Barbecue & Tap House, 201 E. 13th Ave. FREE.

Karaoke w/ Jeff, 6pm, Slice Pizzeria & Bar, 325 Blair Blvd. FREE.

Bingo w/ Ty Connor, 6:30pm, The PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd. FREE.

Trivia Night w/ Elliot Martinez, 6:30pm, Oregon Wine LAB, 488 Lincoln St. FREE.

Trivia Night, 7pm, The Ninkasi Better Living Rm., 155 Blair Blvd. FREE.

Trivia Tuesdays, 7pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. FREE.

Karaoke w/ Jeff, 9pm, John Henry's, 881 Willamette. FREE.

SOCIAL DANCE

Salsa Dancing, 7pm, The Big Dirty, 844 Olive St. \$5.

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 20

ART/CRAFT

Developing Glazes, 5:30-7:30pm, Umpqua Valley Arts Association, 1624 W. Harvard Ave., Roseburg. \$50.

COMEDY

Letterkenny live in concert: *A Night of Stand Up*, 7pm, McDonald Theatre, 1010 Willamette. \$40.50.

FILM

The Road to Wellville — Movie Group, 1-3pm, Willamalane Adult Activity Ctr., 215 W. C St., Spfd. FREE.

Ferris Bueller's Day Off, 7pm, Whiteside Theatre, 461 SW. Madison Ave., Corvallis. \$5-8.

GATHERINGS

Psychedelic Integration Circle, 5:30pm, EDELIC Ctr., 631 E. 19th Ave., Bldg. B. \$5-20.

KIDS/FAMILY

Sensory Storytime, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Learn to Play Cribbage, 4-5:30pm, Shelton McMurphy Johnson House, 303 Willamette. FREE.

Intro to Herbalism Workshop, 6-7:30pm, The Hybrid Gallery, 941 W. 3rd Ave. \$20.

Spring Equinox Whole Foods Reset, 6-7:30pm, Rain Family Medicine, 3575 Donald St., Ste. 110. \$50-100.

My Journey w/ OHA Psilocybin Therapy, 7pm, Amazon Community Ctr., 2700 Hilyard St. \$17.95 for the book.

LITERARY ARTS

Windfall Reading, 6-7:30pm, Eugene Public Library. FREE.

MUSIC

Harlan, Americana-country-rock, 6:30pm, The PubliHouse, 418 A St., Spfd. N/C.

Swing Jam, 6:30pm, Viking Brewing Co., 520 Commercial St., Unit F. N/C.

Luke Turner Quintet & Jam Session Hosted by Keith Brown, jazz, 7pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$10.

Open Blues Jam w/ Dave Roberts, 7pm, Twisted Duck, 533 W. Centennial Blvd., Spfd. N/C.

Riffle, blues-rock-R&B, 7pm, Mac's Restaurant & Nightclub, 1626 Willamette. N/C.

Luke Bulla w/ Henry Strid, banjo, 7:30pm, Tsunami Books, 2585 Willamette. \$20.

Lúnsa, Irish-acoustic music, 7:30pm, The Shedd, 868 High St. \$19-36.

NIGHTLIFE

Open Mic, 5pm, Mulligan's Pub, 2841 Willamette. FREE.

March Madness Trivia Turney, 6pm, Hop Valley Brewing Co., 990 W. 1st Ave. FREE.

3rd Wednesday Cribbage, 6:30pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette St. FREE.

Bingo Wednesdays, 7pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. FREE.

Caught in the Whit Karaoke, 7pm, 255 Madison St. FREE.

Shelbyville Trivia, 7pm, Drop Bear Brewery, 2690 Willamette. FREE.

TEENS

Make Marble Mazes, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

THURSDAY

MARCH 21

FILM

Encircle Films: *Into the Canyon*, 6:30pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$9-12.

Hunger Games, 7pm, Whiteside Theatre, 461 SW. Madison Ave., Corvallis. \$5-8.

Rad (Remastered 2024), 7:30pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$9.50-12.50.

FOOD/DRINK

Thursday Tasting: Falling Sky Brewing, 5-7pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette. FREE samples.

GATHERINGS

Hearing Voices & Different Realities Discussion & Support Group, 10-11:30am, Trauma Healing Project, 631 E. 19th Ave., Bldg. B. FREE.

Psychedelic Parents Group, 5:30pm, EDELIC Ctr., 631 E. 19th Ave., Bldg. B. \$10 sliding scale.

LECTURES/CLASSES

(B.O.G.S.) Speaker Series w/ Rich Ahrens — Birds of Hawaii, 9-11am, Willamalane Adult Activity Ctr., 215 W. C St., Spfd. FREE.

Retired Senior Providers of Ln. County, 2pm, Sheldon Oaks Retirement, 2525 Cal Young Rd. FREE.

MUSIC

Jazz Lab, 6pm, The PubliHouse, 418 A St., Spfd. N/C.

Live Music, 6pm, Territorial Vineyards & Wine Co., 907 W. 3rd Ave. N/C.

Timothy Patrick, acoustic variety-humor, 6pm, Driftwood Shores, 88416 1st Ave., Florence. \$20.

Frankie Bronco, singer-songwriter, 7pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. N/C.

Gregarius, Juliet, Carol & Joy, Americana-covers-originals, 7pm, 255 Madison St. N/C.

Damien Masterson Jazz Ensemble w/ Robert Bohall, Eli Hansen & Nik Barber, Jazz-Latin-African styles, 7:30pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$15.

Ehud Asherie plays Harry Warren, music of legendary Hollywood composer, 7:30pm, The Shedd, 868 High St. \$9.50-33.

Neko Case, singer-songwriter, 7:30pm, Hult Ctr. \$59.

Reverend Horton Heat w/ Dale Watson, Jason D Williams, psychobilly, 9pm,

John Henry's, 881 Willamette. \$30.

OUTDOORS

Eugene Garden Club Plant Nerd Night, 6-8pm, Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High St. FREE.



From hicks to hockey players, Canadian comedy series *Letterkenny* lasted 12 seasons, and we were there for it. On March 20 at McDonald Theatre, *Letterkenny Presents: A Night of Stand Up* reunites members of the *Letterkenny* family. *Letterkenny* started as a YouTube video published in 2013 and transitioned into the critically acclaimed, Canadian Screen Award-winning series created by Jared Keeso and Jacob Tierney in 2016. The hit show spawned the beloved sitcom *Shoresy* starring Keeso. With more than 80 episodes, *Letterkenny* streams in Canada, the U.S., Australia, New Zealand and the U.K. “This grassroots Canadian comedy is traveling faster than bad gas in a small town,” *Letterkenny*’s website says. The sitcom showcases the amusing antics of residents in a small rural community in Canada. The stand-up comedy show hits the road on its tour across the country with seasoned comedians Mark Forward (pictured), who plays Coach, and Jeff McEnery, who plays Alexander, taking the stage this Wednesday alongside show writer Allie Pearse. VIP packages offer a pre-show meet and greet, photograph opportunity, moderated Q&A and more. Don’t miss a night out full of laughs and quick wit.

Letterkenny Presents: A Night of Stand Up is 8 pm March 20 at McDonald Theatre, 1010 Willamette St. Tickets are \$40.50 for all ages and \$90.50 for VIP packages at McDonaldTheatre.com. More info on the show and tour is at *Letterkenny.tv*. —Brianna Murschel

Bodies at Risk

ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE IN
'LOVE LIES BLEEDING'

By Rick Levin

The closing scene of *Saint Maud*, the 2019 feature-length debut by British writer/director Rose Glass, was so jarring and disturbing that I'm convinced it imprinted itself permanently on the DNA of my nightmares.

A brooding psychological horror film about a nurse whose Catholicism degenerates into madness and martyrdom, the movie's final image exterminates all preceding illusions so completely that only the void is left. It was a bold, shattering moment of filmmaking, announcing the arrival of a talent worth watching — granting, of course, that you like your art profoundly unsettling.

Glass' newest, *Love Lies Bleeding*, is a lot more playful than *Saint Maud*, though playful here is a very relative term. The movie has all the outward trappings of a crime thriller: grit, darkness, sex and violence. In style and substance both, it immediately recalls the early work of the Coen brothers, as well as such '90s neo-noir gems as John Dahl's *The Last Seduction*, and especially the Wachowski brothers' excellent *Bound*.

Set in the garish and mulleted New Mexico of the 1980s, the movie centers on Lou (Kristin Stewart), the disaffected daughter of a local crime lord, Lou Sr. (Ed Harris), whose shooting range is a cover for his Mexican gun-running operation. One day Jackie (Katy O'Brian), an itinerant body-builder making her way to a competition in Las Vegas, walks into the gym where Lou works, and the sparks immediately fly. They hook up, and Lou hooks Jackie up with steroids. What could go wrong?

Well, this being a neo-noir, a lot goes wrong, and then even more wrong. Jackie, jacked on roids, commits an act of brutal vengeance against Lou's brother-in-law J.J. (Dave Franco) for abusing his wife, Lou's sister Beth (Jenna Malone). This act of righteous loyalty plunges the lovers into an escalating tangle of betrayal and murder, ending with a scene that absolutely has to be seen to be believed.

The first half of the movie, while thoroughly entertaining, edgy and funny, was so by the numbers that I



began to wonder whether it wasn't simply a very adept and stylish homage to the thrillers previously mentioned — both of which also bucked the masculine noir trend by placing women in the lead role.

And then, about halfway through, there came a scene that recalled the spontaneous gut-shot of *Saint Maud*, and then another, and then another, and then shit got really weird. Glass, who co-wrote the screenplay with Weronika Tofilska, has a great eye for character and detail — witness the macho douche J.J. fumbling with his chopsticks at lunch, or the Hulk-like crackling of pumped muscles — but her greatest talent lies in a kind of cinematic brutality: you are going along, seduced into a particular vision of reality, only to have the carpet yanked from beneath your feet.

What's revealed in these moments is a deeper kind of truth — something sad, or tragic, or just plain real, like the dark circles under Stewart's eyes or a pile of vomit on an empty stage. The effect here is destabilization through shock, and it's thrilling. In *Love Lies Sleeping*, Glass employs this technique to peel away narrative layers only to add other layers, themselves later to be peeled away (or maybe not). What results is a very peculiar form of magical realism, where it is not reality itself but only its perception that is being interrogated.

It's all great fun — dark and nasty, but fun — and the

second half of the film moves with such breakneck speed that it becomes difficult to distinguish between a laugh and a gasp. Bodies pile up, double-crosses abound, good people do bad, bad things. I can't imagine any moviegoers who require that their morality be sliced cleanly between good and evil will find much to like here.

Too bad. This movie doesn't only thumb its nose at conventional morality; it rejoices in blowing it to smithereens. The joy to be had resides in the absurdity of it all, the sheer subversive energy, the controlled chaos of Glass's directorial hand.

Elevating it all is the cast. Stewart, who has become a master at conveying a taciturn, millennial misanthropy that barely covers a scorched romanticism, has never been better, and she is well matched by O'Brian as an addled dreamer who walks a fine line between infectious naif and scary psycho. Their on-screen attraction is palpable — femme fatale meets femme fatale — and sexy as hell. Especially good is Anna Baryshnikov as Daisy, a strung-out party girl whose crush on Lou borders on obsession. She is the movie's secret weapon, an accelerant awaiting a spark — this bumbling dunderhead who is way more dangerous than she at first seems.

Love Lies Bleeding plays at Metro Cinemas, 888 Willamette Street, and Regal Valley River Center, 500 Valley River Center.

March 17

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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

BY ROB BREZSNY

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): I suspect you will soon have far more beginners' luck than you ever thought possible. For best results — to generate even more wildly abundant torrents of good luck — you could adopt what Zen Buddhists called "beginner's mind." That means gazing upon everyone and everything as if encountering it for the first time. Here are other qualities I expect to be flowing freely through you in the coming weeks: spontaneity, curiosity, innocence, candor and unpredictability. To the degree that you cultivate these states, you will invite even more beginner's luck into your life.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): Taurus artist Salvador Dali was prone to exaggerate for dramatic effect. We should remember that as we read his quote: "Mistakes are almost always of a sacred nature. Never try to correct them. On the contrary: Rationalize them; understand them thoroughly." While that eccentric advice may not always be 100-percent accurate or useful, I think it will be true and helpful for you in the coming weeks. Have maximum fun making sacred mistakes, Taurus! Learn all you can from them. Use them to improve your life.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): The professional fun advisors here at Free Will Astrology International Headquarters have concluded that your Party Hardy Potential Rating for the coming weeks is 9.8 (out of 10). In fact, this may be the Party Hardy Phase of the Year for you. You could gather the benefits of maximum revelry and conviviality with minimal side effects. Here's a meditation to get you in the right mood: Imagine mixing business and pleasure with such panache that they blend into a gleeful, fruitful synergy.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): Cancerian author and psychotherapist Virginia Satir (1916-1988) was renowned as the "Mother of Family Therapy." Her research led her to conclude, "We need four hugs a day for survival. We need eight hugs a day for maintenance. We need 12 hugs a day for growth." That 12-hug recommendation seems daunting to achieve, but I hope you will strive for it in the coming weeks. You are in a phase when maximum growth is possible — and pushing to the frontiers of hugging will help you activate the full potential. (PS: Don't force anyone to hug you. Make sure it's consensual.)

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): Have you been genuinely amazed anytime recently? Have you done something truly amazing? If not, it's time to play catch-up. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, you need and deserve exciting adventures that boggle your soul in all the best ways. You should be wandering out on the frontiers and tracking down provocative mysteries. You could grow even smarter than you already are if you expose yourself to challenges that will amaze you and inspire you to be amazing.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22): I invite you to perform a magic spell that will help prepare you for the rich, slippery soul work you have ahead of you. I'll offer a suggestion, but feel free to compose your own ritual. First, go outside where it's raining or misting, or find a waterfall. Stand with your legs apart and arms spread out as you turn your face up toward the falling moisture. As you drink it in, tell yourself you will be extra fluid and flowing in the coming weeks. Promise yourself you will stimulate and treasure succulent feelings. You will cultivate the sensation that everything you need is streaming in your direction.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22): You are gliding into the climax of your re-education about togetherness, intimacy and collaboration. The lessons you've been learning have deepened your reservoir of wisdom about the nature of love. And in the coming weeks, even further teachings will arrive; even more openings and invitations will be available. You will be offered the chance to earn what could in effect be a master's degree in relationships. It'll be challenging work, but rewarding and interesting. Do as best as you can. Don't demand perfection from yourself or anyone else.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): Now is not a favorable phase to gamble on unknown entities. Nor should you allow seemingly well-meaning people to transgress your boundaries. Another Big No: Don't heed the advice of fear-mongers or nagging scolds, whether they're inside or outside your head. On the other hand, dear Scorpio, the coming weeks will be an excellent time for the following actions. 1. Phase out attachments to alliances and love interests that have exhausted their possibilities. 2. Seek the necessary resources to transform or outgrow a frustrating fact about your life. 3. Name truths that other people seem intent on ignoring and avoiding. 4. Conjure simple, small, slow, practical magic to make simple, small, slow, practical progress.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): Falling in love is fun! It's also exciting, enriching, inspiring, transformative, world-shaking and educational. Wouldn't it be fabulous if we could keep falling in love anew three or four times a year for as long as we live? We might always be our best selves, showing our most creative and generous sides, continually expanding our power to express our soulful intelligence. Alas, it's not practical or realistic to always be falling in love with another new person. Here's a possible alternative: What if we enlarged our understanding of what we could fall in love with? Maybe we would become perpetually infatuated with brilliant teachings, magical places and high adventures as well as great art and music. The coming weeks will be an excellent time for you to cultivate this skill.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): I'm perplexed by spiritual teachers who fanatically preach the doctrine that we should BE HERE NOW as much as possible. Living with full enjoyment in the present moment is a valuable practice, but dismissing or demeaning the past is shortsighted. Our lives are forged from our histories. We should revere the stories we are made of, visit them regularly, and keep learning from them. Keep this in mind, Capricorn. It's an excellent time to heal your memories and to be healed by them. Cultivate deep gratitude for your past as you give the old days all your love. Enjoy this quote from novelist Gregory Maguire: "Memory is part of the present. It builds us up inside; it knits our bones to our muscles and keeps our heart pumping. It is memory that reminds our bodies to work, and memory that reminds our spirits to work, too: it keeps us who we are."

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): Controversial author William S. Burroughs was a rough, tough troublemaker. But he had some wisdom that will soon be extra useful for you. He said that love is the best natural painkiller available. I bring this to your attention not because I believe you will experience more pain than the rest of us in the coming months. Rather, I am predicting you will have extra power to alleviate your pain — especially when you raise your capacity to give and receive love.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): The planet Saturn entered Pisces in March 2023 and won't depart for good until February 2026. Is that a bad thing or good thing for you Pisceans? Some astrologers might say you are in a challenging time when you must make cutbacks and take on increased responsibility. I have a different perspective. I believe this is a phase when you can get closer than ever before to knowing exactly what you want and how to accomplish what you want. In my view, you are being called to shed secondary wishes that distract you from your life's central goals. I see this period as a homecoming — your invitation to glide into robust alignment with your soul's code.

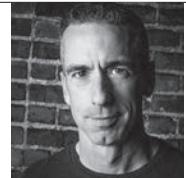
Homework: Meditate on "creative destruction." How could you generate benefits by getting rid of burdens? Newsletter.FreeWillAstrology.com.

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CHECK OUT EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES AND DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES.

SAVAGE LOVE

BY DAN SAVAGE



I have a history of dating men I'm not attracted to physically or emotionally. I always found it weirdly comforting to know my boyfriend was obsessed with me while I had minimal feelings for him. I have explored this in therapy and chalk it up to lack of self-confidence. But a month ago I started hanging out with this guy and it's the first relationship I've been in that isn't one sided. It's also the first relationship I've been in where the guy wasn't pushing me to "define the relationship" after a month. This has led to me feeling quite vulnerable and afraid. For the first time in a long time, I'm dating a guy that I not only like but find very attractive and now I'm terrified it will end. This fear has led me to keep my feelings to myself. In previous relationships where I was the one with the upper hand, I found it easier to speak up because I felt in control and didn't really care if it ended. I am now in a place where I'm afraid to speak for fear of saying the wrong thing. I want to know what his intentions are, but I don't want to put undue pressure on him, either. I'm craving more validation than I'm getting from him because I got used to being smothered with validation in all my previous relationships, but I don't know how to bring this up without making it seem like I am trying to DTR. Any advice?

— Naked And Afraid

I wouldn't chalk up the choices you've made in the past — only dating men you weren't attracted to, only dating men you could take or leave, only dating men you held in what sounds like contempt — to a lack of self-confidence. Frankly, I'm a little mystified that your therapist endorsed that interpretation. You either had one of those therapists who thinks it's their job to help clients construct self-serving rationalizations for their shitty behavior — explanations that center their client as victims — or you came up with that rationalization on your own and your therapist never got around to challenging you on it.

So, I'm going to challenge you.

I don't think you have self-confidence issues, NAA, I think you have control issues. You only dated men you didn't care about — you only dated men you weren't attracted to physically or emotionally — because you wanted to have "the upper hand." You wanted all the power, all the leverage and all the control. You not only dated only men you could take or leave, NAA, you seemed to go out of your way to find men who couldn't leave you. That is not the weak-ass move of a person who lacks self-confidence, NAA. That's a cold-hearted power play executed by a control freak. I'm glad you got into therapy and it seems to have done you some good — you're currently dating someone you're attracted to and for the first time experiencing feelings most human experience when we meet someone we like — and if that shallow pseudo-epiphany you had in therapy ("I lack self-confidence!") helped you make different and better choices, NAA, then it did you some good. But I think you have more to unpack, perhaps with a different therapist.

Zooming out for a second: Lots of us have been there. We were dating someone we could take or leave and realized that person was falling in love with us. When that happens — when someone we could take or leave is a lot more invested in the relationship and wants to have those DTR convos — we need to end things as quickly and considerately as possible. But if we only date people we could take or leave, one after another, then we're leading people on and, even worse, we're stealing from them. We're stealing time and energy they could've invested in finding a person who cared about them and wanted to take them. A good person doesn't do that sort of shit — not to people they care about, not to people they don't care about, not to anyone.

Alright, NAA, what's going to happen to this new guy? It's only been a month, so you don't know him that well, and most new relationships peter out after a month or two. So, there actually isn't that much at stake here, at least not yet. Most of what you have is hope: you like this guy and you're hoping you continue to like him as you get to know him better, and you're hoping he likes you, too. But if it doesn't go anywhere — if you have that DTR convo a month or two from now and you learn he's not as into you as you are him — you may wind up with a broken heart. But getting your heart broken is proof you have one.

Whatever happens, NAA, don't return to your old, shitty and heartless modus operandi. It wasn't good for the men you dated, and it wasn't good for you either. Being open to love means being open to pain. You're open now. Stay open. It's better this way. You're better this way.

My boyfriend, who is a 72-year-old man, wants to gift our personal trainer, who is younger and hotter than me, an expensive piece of jewelry. I felt jealous and insecure when he brought this up and I voiced my concerns to her. She told me that she sees the gift as a token of friendship and nothing more and then added that, as her friend, I should want what's best for her. My boyfriend is a multimillionaire many times over and maybe I don't understand how rich people give gifts, as I'm not "from" money, but it seems strange. My boyfriend told me to think of it as a bequest — he's making bequests in his will to 50 or so people after he dies — but the thought of him asking for her permission to give this gift to her without first asking me makes me uncomfortable. It makes me wonder how long he was fantasizing about giving her this gift and why exactly he wants to give it to her so badly. I need a second opinion here.

— Girlfriendly Instinct Flaging This

This man is not your husband, he's your boyfriend; his millions are not your millions, they're his millions. I can certainly see why thinking about this gift makes you uncomfortable, GIFT, but I don't see an upside for you in trying to talk your boyfriend out of giving his personal trainer a gift he's already promised her. The only leverage you have over him is the threat of a breakup, GIFT, but where will issuing that threat get you? Best-case scenario, your boyfriend rescinds the offer but resents you and your personal trainer, who you consider a friend, feels jerked around by both of you and distances herself; worst-case scenario, you wind up single and written out of the will — assuming you're among the fortunate 50 or so — and your personal trainer gets that expensive piece of jewelry and possibly more.

If I may, GIFT, I'd like to address the elephant in the room/question/gym: you're worried your boyfriend is only making this gesture — he's only giving this woman this extravagant gift — because he wants to fuck her. I can confidently assure you that your boyfriend absolutely, positively, without a doubt wants to fuck his personal trainer. Because no one in the long, sordid history of personal trainers has ever hired a personal trainer they didn't wanna fuck. But just because someone wants to fuck their personal trainer doesn't mean they would fuck their personal trainer. Your boyfriend can wanna fuck his personal trainer and give her a gift that essentially says, "I would if I could," and still wanna honor the monogamous commitment he's (presumably) made to you. While legitimately concerning, these two things — your boyfriend signaling to someone else that he would fuck them if he could and your boyfriend remaining faithful to you — are not mutually exclusive.

While personal trainers sometimes ingratiate themselves to clients by engaging in a little harmless flirtation, very few personal trainers actually wanna fuck their clients — especially their elderly and/or monogamously partnered clients — and vastly fewer actually do fuck their clients. And based on what you shared about that gift-block convo you had with your personal trainer, GIFT, it doesn't sound like she's interested in your boyfriend sexually, gift or no gift. So, while your boyfriend may get a little thrill out of giving this woman a piece of jewelry, she almost certainly regards this gift — a gift that, again, was already promised to her — as a very generous tip from a very well-off client that she doesn't wanna see naked.

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